

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL GRANT AID FUNDING 2024-25 GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Aims of Funding

Ashington Town Council aims to promote and protect the quality of life and well-being of those who live in, work in, or visit the local area. To this end, the Council offer grants to local organisations based in, or providing services to the locality, to help them maintain and develop their services, facilities, and activities.

The Council has a long history of funding sports clubs and local charities with annual subsidies, and of making funding available to provide smaller grants throughout the year.

Promoting Equality and Diversity in Grant Aid Allocation

The Town Council is committed to upholding the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of its operations, including the allocation of grant aid. In accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty 2022, we ensure that our grant application process is transparent, fair, and accessible to all individuals and groups, regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances.

As part of our commitment to promoting equality, we actively seek applications from a diverse range of applicants representing various communities and demographics within Ashington. We encourage organisations and initiatives that aim to address issues of inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion to apply for grant aid support.

To demonstrate our dedication to fulfilling the Public Sector Equality Duty 2022, the Town Council will:

- ✓ Provide clear and accessible information about the grant application process, criteria, and eligibility requirements to ensure that all potential applicants are aware of the opportunities available.
- ✓ Proactively engage with underrepresented communities and groups to encourage their participation in the grant application process. This may include targeted outreach efforts, collaboration with community organisations, and provision of support and guidance to potential applicants.
- ✓ Ensure that the grant assessment and decision-making process is conducted in a fair, unbiased, and objective manner, taking into account the specific needs and priorities of different communities and demographics.
- ✓ Monitor and evaluate the impact of our grant aid programs to assess whether they effectively address inequalities and contribute to positive outcomes for all members of our community.

By actively promoting equality and diversity in our grant aid allocation process, the Town Council aims to create a more inclusive and equitable community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

We welcome applications from all individuals and organisations committed to advancing these shared values.

Data Protection Statement

Ashington Town Council is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of your personal information. Any personal data collected through this Grant Aid application form will be processed in accordance with applicable data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

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The information provided on this form will be used solely for the purpose of assessing your eligibility for Grant Aid and administering the grant application process. This may include contacting you for further information, communicating the outcome of your application, and managing the disbursement of funds.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to Ashington Town Council collecting, storing, and processing your personal data for the purposes outlined above. Your personal information will only be shared with individuals and entities directly involved in the administration of the Grant Aid program and will not be disclosed to any third parties without your prior consent, unless required by law.

Ashington Town Council will take all reasonable measures to ensure the security and confidentiality of your personal data and will not retain it for longer than necessary for the purposes stated herein.

If you have any questions or concerns about how your personal data is being handled, or if you wish to exercise your rights under data protection laws, including the right to access, rectify, or erase your personal information, please contact the Executive Officer.

By submitting this form, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the Data Protection Statement and consent to the processing of your personal data in accordance with its terms.

Annual Grant Aid Funding

The Annual Grant Aid Funding process is open, and the Council has set aside £70,000 for this purpose in the financial year 2024/25.

The Council aims to strengthen links with funded groups throughout the year as a means of mutually sharing decisions, activities, and events, but also to ensure good governance. Recipients of grants of over £5,000 will be expected to provide updates throughout the year, with particular emphasis on how funding has been spent, and the Council will pay funding quarterly on the production of reports.

The Council will seek public recognition of awards by recipients and will publicise the awards made to demonstrate to use of public funds. We will invite recipients of grants to attend events and engagement organised by the Council to promote networking and sharing of best practice.

Those organisations who seek funding of £3,000 or more will be asked to present their project or organisation to a group of Cllrs, in addition to completing the required application form. These will be arranged in advance of decisions taken on 11th June 2024.

The Council will seek public recognition of awards by recipients and will publicise the awards made to demonstrate to use of public funds.

The Council has agreed funding criteria which applicants must ensure they meet before applying. Community groups and organisations that are missing any of the criteria required are encouraged to contact the Council to discuss this. We will support any group that

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requires an alternative communication in accordance with our work to promoting Equality and Diversity in Grant Aid Allocation, and the Public Sector Equality Duty 2022.

Funding Criteria that must be met

Grant Aid is for voluntary, non-profit making organisations who provide facilities, activities, and services principally for residents served by Ashington Town Council.

Typically, these organisations include sports, play, and art clubs, community associations, youth organisations, organisations that assist disadvantaged/vulnerable groups and charitable trusts, and in particular those who support underrepresented or marginalised groups.

To be eligible to apply for funding from Ashington Town Council, you must be able to provide the following:

- ✓ A constitution or governing document, or written aims and objectives.
- ✓ Up-to-date financial information, including latest accounts and bank statement.
- ✓ A set a basic core policies:
 - Health & Safety
 - Equality and Diversity
 - Safeguarding
 - Data Protection and GDPR
 - Risk Management
 - Complaints Procedure

We will support any group to achieve the required policies, in accordance with our work to promoting Equality and Diversity in Grant Aid Allocation, and the Public Sector Equality Duty 2022.

For what can grants be used?

Annual Grant Aid Funding can be used for capital (e.g. purchasing tools and equipment) or revenue expenditure (e.g. running costs) and/or as 'start-up' funding for new bodies.

Organisations that will not be funded

- X Individuals
- X Business organisations whose aim is profit
- X National charities (unless specific direct services are provided within the local area)
- X Schools
- X Religious Establishments
- X Other organisations operating from outside Ashington (unless specific direct services are provided within the local area, or these organisations contribute to the wellbeing of the Town and its residents)

Priorities

When allocating Grant Aid, the Council will consider each case on its merits and may give priority to those groups providing services and facilities and/or fulfilling a role where there are currently 'gaps' in provision, and/or those that address issues of inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion.

Timeline

Annual Grants launched	Wednesday 13 th March 2024
Closing Date	Friday 10 th May 2024
Presentations (if applicable)	(after) 13 th May 2024
Decisions	Tuesday 11 th June 2024